

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Overview

This standard is about severing uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw. This includes trees that have been windblown or uprooted by storm damage, earth movement or another physical agent. The trees will not be in a position that requires assistance from emergency services or utility companies.

Multiple windblow sites will require a planned approach to complete the work. The order of work will often involve the severing and extraction of part-blown and wind-snapped trees prior to severing root-plates from fully blown stems.

The trees will be both over and under guidebar length in diameter and will be both fully and partially uprooted. This also includes the severing of root-plates that overhang the chainsaw operator's cutting position using mechanical or other appropriate machinery for restraint.

This also describes the severing of partly blown (leaning) trees and the felling of wind-snapped (broken) trees with and without the tops attached.

Winches or other appropriate machinery may be used for the restraint of trees with side tension or where the stem is likely to roll.

When working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. evaluate your own competence to proceed with the operations and seek advice where necessary
7. plan a systematic approach to the work of severing uprooted or windblown trees to ensure that no unstable trees or root-plates are overhanging the cutting positions and provide a thorough briefing to all operators on site
8. prepare the site by removing obstacles in the way of the work position and establish an escape route, as appropriate
9. prepare the stems by removing branches, climbing vegetation, scrub and other obstructions, as appropriate
10. identify tension and compression in stems and select a recognised severing method appropriate to the size and condition of trees that are under and over guidebar length in diameter
11. sever the root-plates from under and over guidebar diameter stems using the appropriate compression and tension cuts, using restraint equipment as appropriate
12. prepare and fell windblown trees using the appropriate methods and aid tools
13. ensure that the trees and root-plates are in a safe and appropriate position and condition to enable the subsequent operations
14. select and use equipment for the restraint of the tree that is appropriate to the size and condition of the tree and root-plate
15. follow environmental good practice as set by your organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
16. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. how to identify top, bottom and side tension and compression in timber
7. the risks involved and precautions to be taken by the chainsaw operator when cutting timber under high tension
8. how to recognise when winch restraint of a root-plate or stem is necessary
9. how to use a winch or other mechanical means for the restraint of side tension or to prevent timber rolling/moving on a slope
10. the methods and risks of cutting a "long log" when severing buried stems or unstable root-plates
11. the alternative methods that can be used to sever timber under very heavy tension, such as "V" cuts, and the additional risks and precautions to be taken
12. how to make root-plates safe after severing
13. the restrictions to consider and additional safety precautions to take when using winches to restrain overhanging root-plates
14. the types of winch suitable for restraining root-plates and how they operate
15. how to select anchor points adequate for the load applied and the operator safeguards in case of anchor point failure, including the consideration of the multiplication of forces on anchor points, such as double rigging or offset (diverted) pulling
16. how to select, set up and use winch and compatible ancillary equipment for double-rigging and offset (diverted) pulling
17. the danger areas in relation to the winching system, the tree stem and the root-plate
18. the situations where a banksman (lookout person) would be employed and the means of communication with the operator
19. the reasons and methods for the restraint of side tension in uprooted stems
20. how to recognise situations where chainsaw severing is not appropriate
21. the methods of severing uprooted trees, under and over guidebar length in diameter
22. how to sever partly uprooted or windblown trees
23. how to fell broken trees with tops attached or snapped trees with no tops

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

24. the advantages and methods of removing a broken top prior to felling
25. the problems and work methods associated with felling broken trees
26. the additional safeguards when felling broken standing stems with unstable root-plates
27. the potential hazards and the safeguards required when cutting tops without severing the root-plate
28. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
29. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding Ancillary equipment compatible with the winch, etc., will include cables, strops, chokers, shackles, pulley snatch blocks and other devices, such as cable extension clamps

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Glossary

Banksman – a lookout person

Sever uprooted or windblown trees using a chainsaw

Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2
Date Approved	February 2017
Indicative Review Date	February 2021
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANTw24
Relevant Occupations	Arboriculture and forestry; Chainsaw and forest machine operators
Suite	Treework
Keywords	chainsaw; uprooted; windblown; trees